

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image printing apparatus comprising:
image printing means for printing an image on the basis of image data;
- 5 storage means for storing information concerning details of a message for operating said image printing apparatus; and
display means for displaying the message and for, when a message for which the information concerning the 10 details of the message is stored in said storage means is displayed, displaying identification information which indicates that the details of the message can be displayed.
- 15 2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus further comprises control means for causing said display means to display the message, said storage means stores the information concerning the details of the message in correspondence with information concerning the message, and said control means recognizes whether or not information concerning the details of the message is stored 20 in said storage means, when causing said display means to display the message, and causes said display means to display identification information together with the message, when recognizing that the information is stored.
- 25 3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said storage means stores corresponding information which indicates that the information concerning the details of the message is stored in correspondence with the

information concerning the message, and said control means recognizes on the basis of the corresponding information whether or not the information concerning the details of the message is stored in said storage means.

5 4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said apparatus further comprises operating means having a help key which is operated by a user to instruct said display means to display a help message, said control means changes display contents on said display means when said operating 10 means is operated, and the identification information is information for identifying each of a plurality of messages displayed by said designating means as a message for which whether or not the information concerning the details of the message can be displayed on said display means.

15 5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said control means causes said display means to display the details of the message on the basis of the information concerning the details of the message when the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed 20 on said display means together with the message.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the message is displayed on said display means together with a setting window for setting a condition for formation of the image, and said control means causes said display means to 25 display details of the message on the basis of information concerning the details of the message when the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed,

and causes said display means to display the details of the setting window when the help key is operated while the identification information is not displayed on said display means together with the message.

5 7. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the message is displayed on said display means together with a setting window for setting a condition for formation of the image, and said control means causes said display means to display information concerning details of the message when
10 the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed, and causes said display means to display detailed information concerning the setting window when the help key is operated while the identification information is not displayed on said display means, and the
15 detailed information concerning the setting window is stored in said storage means.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said storage means stores the detailed information concerning the setting window in correspondence with the information concerning the setting window, and said control means determines whether or not the detailed information concerning the setting window is stored in said storage means, when the help key is operated while the identification information is not displayed on said display means, and causes said display means to display the setting window, when determining that the detailed information is stored in said storage means.

9. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the message and the details of the message are an operation instruction for the user and details of the operation instruction, respectively, and said control means causes
5 said display means to display the details of the operation instruction when the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed on said display means together with the operation instruction for the user.

10. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the message and the details of the message are a message stating that image printing cannot be started and details indicating that image printing cannot be started, respectively, and said control means causes said display means to display details indicating that the image printing
15 cannot be started, when the help key is operated while the identification information is displayed on said display means together with the message stating that the image printing cannot be started.

11. An image printing apparatus comprising:
20 image printing means for printing an image on the basis of image data;
 operating means operated by a user;
 display means for changing display contents when said operating means is operated; and
25 control means for controlling said display means,
 wherein said operating means includes a help key for selecting a help function, and said control means causes

said display means to display details indicating that image printing cannot be started, when the help key is operated while a message stating that image printing cannot be started is displayed on said display means.

5 12. An image printing apparatus comprising:

image printing means for printing an image on the basis of image data;

operating means operated by a user;

display means for changing display contents when said 10 operating means is operated; and

control means for controlling said display means,

wherein said operating means includes a help key for selecting a help function, and said control means causes said display means to display details of an instruction 15 operation for the user, when the help key is operated while message indicating the operation instruction for the user is displayed on said display means.

13. An image printing apparatus comprising:

image printing means for printing an image on the 20 basis of image data;

operating means operated by a user;

display means for displaying a setting window for setting a condition for formation of the image together with a message;

25 storage means for storing information concerning details of the message; and

control means for controlling said display means,

wherein said operating means includes a help key for selecting a help function, and said control means causes said display means to display the details of the message, if information concerning the details of the message 5 corresponding to the message displayed on said display means is stored in said storage means when the help key is operated, and causes said display means to display details of the setting window if information concerning the details of the message corresponding to the message displayed on 10 said display means is not stored in said storage means:

... 14. An image printing apparatus comprising image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling operation of said image printing apparatus, operating means 15 for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window in accordance with a key input,

wherein said operating means includes a help key for allowing the user to select a help function, and said 20 control means controls said display means to display details indicating that image printing cannot be started, when the help function is selected by the help key while said display means is displaying information indicating that the image printing cannot be started.

25 15. An image printing apparatus comprising image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling

operation of said image printing apparatus, operating means for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window in accordance with a key input,

5 wherein said operating means includes a help key for allowing the user to select a help function, and said control means controls said display means to display details of an operation instruction for the user, when the help function is selected by the help key while said
10 display means is displaying information for the operation instruction for the user.

16. An image printing apparatus comprising image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling
15 operation of said image printing apparatus, operating means for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window in accordance with a key input,

 wherein said operating means includes a help key for
20 allowing the user to select a help function, and said control means controls said display means to display identification information for allowing the user to identify each of a plurality of messages displayed on said display means as a message for which whether or not details
25 of the message can be displayed through the help function.

17. A display control method for an image printing apparatus including image printing means for printing an

image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling operation of the image printing apparatus, operating means for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window

5 in accordance with a key input,

the operating means including a help key for allowing the user to select a help function,

comprising, when the help function is selected by the help key while the display means is displaying information indicating that image printing cannot be started is displayed, controlling the display means to display details indicating that the image printing cannot be started.

18. A display control method for an image printing apparatus including image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling operation of the image printing apparatus, operating means for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window in accordance with a key input,

20 the operating means including a help key for allowing the user to select a help function,

comprising, when the help function is selected by the help key while the display means is displaying an operation instruction for the user, controlling the display means to display details of an operation instruction for the user.

19. A display control method for an image printing apparatus including image printing means for printing an

image on a sheet on the basis of image data, control means for controlling operation of the image printing apparatus, operating means for allowing the user to perform input operation, and display means for changing a display window
5 in accordance with a key input,

the operating means including a help key for allowing the user to select a help function,

comprising controlling the display means to display identification information for allowing the user to
10 identify each of a plurality of messages displayed by the display means as a message for which whether or not details of the message can be displayed through the help function.